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## MISCELLANEOUS.

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### I.—*Notes on South America and Oceania.* From Communications by General W. MILLER.

CHILI.—Dr. Weyman, a protégé of Baron Humboldt, and a fellow-passenger, tells me that Chili is to a mineralogist or geologist one of the most interesting countries in the world, and that her botanical productions are, although less numerous, less known than those of Peru. He says that the province of Copiapo is in a state of constant agitation from earthquakes, and that the whole face of the country is progressively undergoing most interesting changes from these convulsions. He states that this is the case, more or less, throughout Chili; but that, unless scientific persons are present to observe and compare the extraordinary effects of these convulsions of the earth, much will be lost to the scientific world. According to the Doctor, Valparaiso and most part of the coast of Chili have risen several feet from the level of the sea of late years. This accounts for two streets having been gained on the ocean in that city since I first arrived there, in 1817. The water is very deep close to the beach all round the bay. When at Valdivia, in 1820, we observed that there was only 2 feet of water where six Dutch line-of-battle ships had anchored sixty or seventy years before. The rivers of Birbir and Imperial are now scarcely navigable for boats at their mouths, whereas, when Ercilla wrote his ‘Araucana,’ 300 years ago, large vessels sailed some distance up those streams. The Doctor assures me that Lake Titicaca is 12,100 feet above the level of the sea, and the Ceno de Toledo, between Arequipa and Puno, is 17,200.—(Note made during my voyage from Peru to the Sandwich Islands in 1831. W. M.)

INDIOS BRAVOS.—Passing over a mountainous country for about 30 leagues due E. of Cuzco, the traveller reaches the summit of the eastern ridge of the Andes, whence he descries at their immediate base a few cultivated spots, or what is called el Valle de Pancartambo. Beyond this expands an apparently endless space of country, so covered with primeval forest as to be all but impenetrable, and so intersected by mountain-torrents—forming tributary streams to the Amazon—that the inhabitants,

called *Indios Bravos*, were never subjugated by the Incas of Peru, nor by the Spaniards, nor by any other race of men. Indeed no Christians have ever penetrated more than 10 leagues direct from the eastern foot of this ridge of the Andes into the wood-and-water entangled fortresses, which spread over hundreds of miles between the confines of civilized Brazil and the confines of civilized Peru.

In 1780 a Spanish subdelegado (or governor of a province), named Landa, advanced with 100 well-armed soldiers and pioneers a distance of 8 or 10 leagues, but they were speedily driven back by hordes of naked foresters, whose only offensive weapon was the bow and arrow. No second attempt, that I could learn, had been made until my own excursion in 1835, as described in my 'Notes.'

The *Indios Bravos* are perhaps the only numerous body of the primitive race existing in the New World who have never been subdued by, nor partially amalgamated with, civilized tribes, nor brought into permanent contact with Europeans by the aid of missionaries, traders, or otherwise.

These Indians of the forest live chiefly on game and fish, both of which they shoot with bows and arrows. They, however, cultivate maize, yams, and a few other esculents, but eat no salt. They wear no clothing of any description whatever, excepting a broad leaf which some of the females occasionally use for a time. Polygamy exists, but it seems that the women, like those of the ancient Germans, are, from inclination or fear, faithful to their husbands.

The *Indios Bravos*, I think, from what I saw of them, bear a closer resemblance to the Indians about New Orleans, to those of the Six Nations near Buffalo, and to the Pahmenakes occupying the gorges of the Andes in the latitude of Concepcion, than to the civilized Indians of Peru—that is, the descendants of those first subdued by the Incas, and then conquered and converted to Christianity by the Spaniards.

In my Notes on the Sandwich and Society Islands, it is shown how easily Chinese or Japanese junks, blown away from their own shores, might have been the accidental means of a more intelligent race being drifted on the W. coast of America, and hence perhaps it is that so much analogy to the Eastern nations is traceable in Mexico and Peru. (No date.)

**UNDISCOVERED ISLANDS IN THE SOUTH SEA.**—That there are several islands still undiscovered in the South Sea no doubt can be entertained; and I feel persuaded that there is a fine field of discovery between  $18^{\circ}$  and  $30^{\circ}$  of S. lat. and  $110^{\circ}$  and  $135^{\circ}$  of W. long., which is a tract of ocean seldom traversed by any vessels. Those that go from the western coast of the American

continent to the W. steer a course at most  $18^{\circ}$  S. of the line, and generally more to the N., to ensure a good trade-wind, which loses much of its strength to the southward of  $12^{\circ}$  S. lat. Vessels coming from the W., India, China, Manilla, &c., get into  $35^{\circ}$  S. lat. as soon as they can, unless they are bound to the coast of Mexico, and then they keep far to the N. Whale-ships that come round Cape Horn run down along the coast to Galapagos and California, and on their return home seldom go farther to the W. than  $110^{\circ}$ . If they proceed, as they usually do, from the Galapagos or California to the Sandwich Islands and Coast of Japan, then to re-double Cape Horn they hardly ever get farther to the E. than  $140^{\circ}$ , until they reach  $30^{\circ}$  S. lat. Ships sailing from the Sandwich Islands, bound home or to the South American coast, never weather—that is never pass to the eastward of—the Society Islands, which are in about  $140^{\circ}$  long., but strive to make a due S. course until they get into  $30^{\circ}$  or  $35^{\circ}$  S. lat.

The Sandwich Islands, from their geographical position, their fertility, salubrious climate, and safe, commodious ports, are of considerable importance. Honolulu, the capital of Waahu, is already an entrepôt for European and Indian goods, whence they are re-shipped to the new States of Spanish America. It is a general rendezvous for most of the whale-ships. Sometimes eighty sail of them, each of from 300 to 500 tons, are at anchor there for months at the same time. In 1835 the amount of imports at Honolulu was 300,000 dollars; of exports 620,000—320,000 being foreign produce, and 300,000 native produce. At Byron's Bay, in the Island of Owhyhee, there are saw-mills. There are also on the same island immense hills of sulphur—the volcano of Kilaen being in constant action and the largest in the world. (From a letter dated 'Lima,' July, 1834.)

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## II.—*Notes on Northern Australia and the neighbouring Seas.* From Letters of Mr. G. W. EARLE.

**NATIVES OF THE NORTH COAST OF AUSTRALIA.** *Vittoria, July 13, 1840.*—The Bughis consider the N.W. coast as a distinct country from the N. coast. The former they call Ki-Java, the latter Maregé. I think I told you that old Bassa Padu left a man with us last year as interpreter with the natives. He has done well for himself, and returned this year to Macassar. He lived three months with the natives of the interior, who are very different from the natives of the coast, and perhaps will be found to be Arasuras. This is a point we must clear up soon, although it will be attended with some danger, for, like the Arasuras of New Guinea and Timor, they avoid strangers with the most ridi-